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21 October 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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***South Vietnam:** The provisional charter promulgated yesterday by the High National Council attempts to harmonize opposing viewpoints represented by Generals Khanh and Minh.

The council is to exercise the powers of a national assembly until a representative body can be constituted. It will select a chief of state who apparently will have little independent authority. The charter requires him to have council approval in designating a premier who is to form a government and to determine and execute national policy. The charter seems to provide for an independent judiciary, and to give the assembly considerable power to overturn the government, as well as to approve legislation.

There is no specific provision meeting General Khanh's demands for a special status for the military in the new government. A National Security Council, comprising the chief of state, premier, defense secretary, and armed forces commander, with powers to approve defense policy and to recommend declarations of emergency, seems to be the only gesture toward accommodating the military.

The charter may make possible the early formation of a government, with Minh as chief of state, a civilian as premier, and Khanh as armed forces commander.

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USSR-Turkey: Turkish Foreign Minister Erkin will be the first high-level, nonbloc visitor to Moscow since Khrushchev's ouster.

He will go to Moscow at the end of the month and remain for about a week. By agreeing to set the date for the visit so soon after Brezhnev and Kosygin assumed power, Moscow probably aims to dispel any fears in the West that the new Soviet Government is about to abandon its policy of "peaceful coexistence." The visit has been pending for almost a year.

For the past several months Soviet officials in Turkey have made strong overtures for better Turkish-Soviet understanding. Erkin's visit probably will not result in any significant improvement in relations between Moscow and Ankara, but it will permit an exchange of views on such outstanding issues as Cyprus. The fact that Moscow is receiving Erkin at this time supports other evidence that the Soviets did not make a major commitment to the Cypriots during the September talks on aid.

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Eastern Europe - USSR: Eastern European leaders apparently intend to maintain semi-independent relations with Moscow and prevent possible domestic repercussions following Khrushchev's ouster.

None of these leaders has fully endorsed the denigration of Khrushchev in the 17 October Pravda. Rumania has not even republished the text of the article, and Hungary and Yugoslavia have published only partial texts, deleting the references to Khrushchev. Moreover, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia have lauded Khrushchev, and even East Germany praised Khrushchev's "merit" as an agent for the Soviet party central committee.

The Eastern European leaders have for some time been attempting to develop policies furthering their own national interests. They now, therefore, want to head off any efforts by the new Soviet leaders to establish tighter controls.

The nature of their reactions in itself demonstrates their more independent posture. Nearly all of them have underscored their intention to maintain such a posture by publicly pointing to assurances received from the new Soviet leadership that policies adopted at the 20th and 22nd Soviet party congresses would be continued. These policies include de-Stalinization and recognition of each Communist party as sovereign and co-equal in its dealings with the USSR.

Zhivkov of Bulgaria is the only East European leader to have made a strong declaration of fealty to the new leadership. He owes his position to Khrushchev, however, and is probably deeply disturbed, particularly since his party opponents are still in a position to challenge his personal power.

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*The Bulgarian Communist party on 20 October became the first in Eastern Europe formally to approve Khrushchev's ouster. The Central Committee adopted a declaration expressing its "great respect for and confidence in the CPSU" and affirmed its belief that the decision taken by the CPSU Central Committee on 14 October will help to carry out "the Leninist policy outlined by the 20th, 21st, and 22nd CPSU Congresses...."

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The independent-minded Rumanian regime is likely to view Khrushchev's ouster as offering further opportunities for maneuver.

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